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BASEL CONVENTION

Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Twelfth meeting
Geneva, 4–15 May 2015
Item 4 (d) (ii) of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: technical assistance: Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In decision BC-11/12, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal requested the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Activity reports for the period January 2013–December 2014 by 31 December 2014, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;

(b) Business plans for the biennium 2016–2017 by 30 September 2015.

2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to provide guidance on effective governance and administrative arrangements for the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and further strengthen their independent operation, subject to the availability of resources;

(b) To continue to facilitate capacity-building activities and pilot projects conducted by the centres, subject to the availability of resources;

(c) To increase efforts to facilitate financial resource mobilization by the centres, including by linking the centres in their implementation of capacity-building activities and pilot projects with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the regional development banks and bilateral donors;

(d) To foster a coordinated approach in its relations with the regional centres of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, while recognizing the specificities of the centres of each convention.

3. By decision BC-11/13, the Conference of the Parties, among other things, adopted interim criteria and an interim methodology for the evaluation of the performance of Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, decided to evaluate the performance and sustainability of the

* UNEP/CHW.12/1.

centres starting at its twelfth meeting and every four years thereafter, decided that the interim criteria and methodology could be revised if necessary at its twelfth meeting and requested the Secretariat to report on the implementation of this issue at its twelfth meeting.

II. Implementation

A. Business plans, activity reports and framework agreements

4. As at 31 December 2014, all 14 regional and coordinating centres had submitted their business plans for the biennium 2014–2015 to the Secretariat. The business plans are available on the Basel Convention website.[1]

5. As at 16 January 2015, all 14 regional and coordinating centres had submitted activity reports for the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2014 to the Secretariat. The activity reports are available on the Basel Convention website.[2]

6. Regarding the request referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above and in accordance with paragraph 5 of decision VI/3, the Secretariat negotiated with the Governments of Egypt, Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay, which host regional centres, and signed on behalf of the Conference of the Parties the amendments to the framework agreements to renew the validity of those that would expire soon. In the same way, an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme was signed.

7. A table on the status of submission of activity reports for the years 2013 and 2014, the business plans for the biennium 2014–2015 and the validity of framework agreements of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres is set out in annex I to the present note.

B. Draft evaluation report of the regional centres

8. Pursuant to decision BC-11/13, a draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres has been prepared by the Secretariat (see UNEP/CHW.12/INF/21). A summary of the draft evaluation report is set out in annex II to the present note.

9. The Secretariat has prepared a report on the activities of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres (see UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14).

C. Other activities to facilitate the work of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres[3]

10. Pursuant to the request referred to in paragraph 2 (b) and (d) above, between September 2013 and December 2014 the Secretariat organized a total of 12 online meetings for the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, as follows:

(a) Six online meeting were held, on 11 and 12 September, 9 and 10 October and 4 and 6 November 2013, with the objective of following up on the decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions at their respective meetings held in May 2013, in particular those decisions related to technical assistance and regional centres, with a view to preparing for the joint meeting of regional centres in 2013;

(b) Six online meetings were held, on 24 and 25 September, 8 and 9 October and 5 and 6 November 2014, with the aim of raising awareness on the availability and use of the online activity reporting system for the regional centres and to prepare for the joint meeting of the regional centres in 2014.

11. The annual joint meetings of the directors of the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions were held in Geneva from 27 to 29 November 2013 and on 27 and 28 November 2014 with the objective of enhancing the performance of the regional centres and fostering regional cooperation and collaboration among them. The 2013 meeting focused on harmonizing the processes between the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, in particular regarding the templates used for preparing business plans, workplans and activity reports.

[1] www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx.

[2] www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx.

[3] In accordance with joint activity 19 on coordination of and support to the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions.

The 2014 meeting focused on the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the regional centres to be undertaken by the respective conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2015. At the 2014 meeting, the Secretariat was requested to seek the approval of the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions to change the business plan/workplan cycles of the centres from the current two-year cycle to a four- or five-year cycle. The reports of those meetings are available on the Basel Convention website.[4]

12. Furthermore, the Secretariat participated as an ex officio member in the meetings of the Steering Committee of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region, in Trinidad and Tobago (online), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Central America Subregion, including Mexico, in El Salvador (on site and online), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region, in Argentina (face to face), and the Basel Convention/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific, in China (on site).

13. In addition, the Secretariat participated in meetings organized by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and the Caribbean Region/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, in Uruguay (on site), to discuss ways to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance and by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, in Mexico (on site), to discuss the relaunching of the Centre's activities after its restructuring.

14. The Secretariat also continued to carry out technical assistance activities through regional centres, with financial support from the Government of Norway and the European Union, in 2013 and 2014. The report on capacity-building and training activities undertaken by the Secretariat is set out in a note by the Secretariat (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/14-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/17).

15. Pursuant to the request referred to in paragraph 2 (c) above, the Secretariat facilitated financial resource mobilization by the regional centres by inviting the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to the annual joint meeting of the regional centres held on 27 and 28 November 2014,[5] at which the representative of the GEF secretariat provided information on the opportunities available to the centres to access funding through the Facility. Further information on the matter is provided in the note by the Secretariat on the report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Facility (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/22). At the 2013 meeting, participants were briefed on the opportunities for integrating issues through the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme. Additional information on the matter is set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14.

III. Proposed action

16. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of:

(a) The information provided in the note by the Secretariat on the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;[6]

(b) The activity reports for the period 2013–2014[7] and business plans for the biennium 2014–2015[8] submitted by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;

(c) The framework agreements between the centres and the Secretariat referred to in paragraph 6 of the note by the Secretariat and the validity of all the existing framework agreements listed in annex I thereto;

[4] http://synergies.pops.int/Default.aspx?tabid=4177.

[5] http://synergies.pops.int/Default.aspx?tabid=3504.

[6] UNEP/CHW.12/12.

[7] Available at www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx.

[8] Available at www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx.

(d) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres[9] and the summary of the draft evaluation report;[10]

(e) The report on the activities and information on the performance and sustainability of the regional centres;[11]

2. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the interim criteria set out in annex I and the interim methodology set out in annex II to decision BC-11/13, the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinated centres established in accordance with decisions III/19, VI/6, VI/8 and VII/10;

3. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Their business plans for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019 by 30 September 2015;

(b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 by 31 December 2016;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare:

(a) A report on the evaluation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, based on the interim criteria and the interim methodology referred to in paragraph 2 above for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

(b) A report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

5. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the interim criteria and the interim methodology referred to in paragraph 2 above, the performance and sustainability of Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres at its fourteenth meeting;

6. *Invites* parties, observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable Basel Convention regional centres to implement their business plans aimed at supporting parties to implement their obligations under the Convention.

[9] See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/21.

[10] UNEP/CHW.12/12, annex II.

[11] See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14.

Annex I

Status of the submission of business plans for the biennium 2014–2015, activity reports for 2013–2014 and validity of the framework agreements

Region	*Regional centre*	*Date of submission of business plans for 2014–2015*	*Date of submission of activity reports for 2013–2014*	*Date of validity of framework agreement*
Africa	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Arab States, Egypt (BCRC Egypt)	14 February 2013	8 October 2014	Extended until 29 October 2018
	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region, Nigeria (BCCC Nigeria)	15 January 2013	13 January 2015	Valid until 7 March 2017
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa, Senegal (BCRC Senegal)	26 December 2012	21 October 2014	Valid until 1 March 2015
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the English-Speaking African countries, South Africa (BCRC South Africa)	9 January 2013	30 September 2014	Valid until 17 April 2017
Asia and the Pacific	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region, China (BCRC China)	28 December 2012	31 December 2014	Valid until 20 May 2016
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia, Indonesia (BCRC SEA)	28 December 2012	31 December 2014	Extended until 29 October 2018
	Basel Convention Regional Centre, Tehran (BCRC Iran)	6 November 2013	14 January 2015	Valid until 27 July 2015
	Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region (SPREP)	8 January 2013	30 December 2014	Extended until 12 June 2018
Central and Eastern Europe	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Commonwealth of Independent States countries, Russian Federation (BCRC Russian Federation)	28 December 2012	16 January 2015	Not yet signed
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe, Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	20 December 2012	30 September 2014	Not yet signed
Latin America and the Caribbean	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region, Argentina (BCRC Argentina)	9 January 2013	27 November 2014	Valid until 8 July 2015
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Central America Subregion, including Mexico, El Salvador (BCRC CAM)	7 January 2013	27 November 2014	Valid until 8 February 2017
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region, Trinidad and Tobago (BCRC Caribbean)	9 January 2013	12 December 2014	Extended until 29 October 2018
	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and the Caribbean Region, Uruguay (BCCC Uruguay)	4 January 2013	31 December 2014	Extended until 29 January 2018

Annex II

Summary of the draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres[a]

Region	*Regional centre*	*Percentage of performance evaluation score based on activities reported for 2011–2012*	*Percentage of performance evaluation score based on activities reported for 2013–2014*
Africa	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region, Nigeria (BCCC Nigeria)	52	61
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Arab States, Egypt (BCRC Egypt)	43	55
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa, Senegal (BCRC Senegal)	73	70
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the English-Speaking African countries, South Africa (BCRC South Africa)	70	100
Asia and the Pacific	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region, China (BCRC China)	88	100
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia, Indonesia (BCRC SEA)	55	64
	Basel Convention Regional Centre, Tehran (BCRC Iran)	39	39
	Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific region (SPREP)	64	64
Central and Eastern Europe	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Commonwealth of Independent States countries, Russian Federation (BCRC Russian Federation)	39	42
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe, Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	82	76
Latin America and the Caribbean	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region, Argentina (BCRC Argentina)	58	70
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region, Trinidad and Tobago (BCRC Caribbean)	52	76
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Central America Subregion, including Mexico, El Salvador (BCRC CAM)	82	94
	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and the Caribbean Region, Uruguay (BCCC Uruguay)	52	94

[a] The full draft evaluation report is set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/21.